

Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Project Profile

OREGON

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Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Program

Focus Areas Funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiology and Surveillance – Core • Laboratory Capacity for Biologic Agents • Health Alert Network
Oregon has strengthened its capacity to respond to threats of bioterrorism by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a health surveillance annex to the Oregon Emergency Response Plan • Testing and upgrading local 24/7 on-call coverage for public health emergencies • Establishing a directory of local public health “emergency response coordinators” • Establishing partnerships with local representatives of the Oregon Conference of Local Health Officials, IDSA, APIC, and the Oregon Medical Association • Conducting a 3-part training program on disease surveillance and outbreak investigations • Coordinating bioterrorism preparedness activities with the Metropolitan Medical Response System steering committee in the Portland metropolitan area • Creating a self-guided education kit for local health departments • Developing a bioterrorism web page • Acquiring reagents and validating laboratory procedures for identifying priority biologic agents • Training public health and clinical laboratorians in the identification and referral of potential bioterrorism samples • Participating in a statewide counter-terrorism planning group • Incorporating appropriate quality assurance standards and monitors into new laboratory procedures • Assessing local laboratory capability throughout the State • Organizing a Bioterrorism Preparedness Coordinating Committee • Completing a technical capacity survey of local health departments • Initiating a division-wide distance learning task force • Approving local health department plans for improving technical capacity and distributing grant awards to implement those improvements

<p>Project Year 2 Plans (August 31, 2000-August 30, 2001) include:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a syndromic surveillance system based on emergency department reporting • Assisting local health departments in the development of local disaster preparedness plans • Training outbreak teams to investigate potential bioterrorism incidents • Coordinating Oregon Health Division bioterrorism activities with the U.S. Department of Justice Domestic Preparedness survey activities managed by the Oregon State Police Office of Emergency Management • Updating the state communicable disease rules and statutes as appropriate • Upgrading laboratory capacity to level B+ for select bioterrorism agents • Establishing protocols and train laboratory staff in the safe handling and transport of specimens • Assessing training needs of level A laboratories • Developing a model response plan for local health departments • Developing a computer-based training curriculum • Creating a “focus group” of local public health officials to assist in the design and implementation of “small form” pilot projects related to bioterrorism preparedness • Updating year one technical assessments of local technical capacities to capture improvements obtained from year one funding • Assisting local health departments in the development and implementation of year two improvement plans • Coordinating with local health department administrators and technical staff and with State of Oregon technical committee and staff a planning framework for year three of the grant and a transition to a sustainable emergency preparedness function, including bioterrorism, within the Oregon Health Division • Providing orientation exercise technical assistance and facilitation to local health departments as requested • Providing to local health departments bioterrorism orientation exercise material via CD-ROM, the Internet, and in hard copy • Enhancing and testing an alert notification system using the technical tools and emergency response coordinator directory acquired in year one
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Anecdotes			

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